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**REQUEST  
FOR  
CONTINUED EXAMINATION (RCE)  
TRANSMITTAL**

**Subsection (b) of 35 U.S.C. § 132, effective on May 29, 2000, provided for continued examination of a utility or plant application filed on or after June 8, 1995.**  
See The American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA).

<i>Application Number</i>	10/027,289
<i>Filing Date</i>	December 20, 2001
<i>First Named Inventor</i>	Ichiro BEKKU
<i>Group Art Unit</i>	1752
<i>Examiner Name</i>	Yvette C. Thornton
<i>Attorney Docket Number</i>	930011-2028

This is a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 of the above-identified application.  
Request for Continued Examination (RCE) practice under 37 CFR 1.114 does not apply to any utility or plant application filed prior to June 8 1995, or to any design application. See Instruction Sheet for RCEs (not to be submitted to the USPTO) on page 2.

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1.	Submission required under CFR 1.114.
a.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Previously submitted <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Consider the amendment(s)/reply under 37 CFR 1.116 previously filed on April 14, 2003 (Any unentered amendment(s) referred to above will be entered)</li> <li>ii. <input type="checkbox"/> Consider the arguments in the Appeal Brief or Reply Brief previously filed on _____</li> <li>iii. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____</li> </ul>
b.	<input type="checkbox"/> Enclosed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. <input type="checkbox"/> Amendment/Reply</li> <li>ii. <input type="checkbox"/> Affidavit(s)/Declaration(s)</li> <li>iii. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)</li> <li>iv. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____</li> </ul>
	05/12/2003 SSESHE1 0000098 10027289   01 FC:1801 750.00 OP   02 FC:1251 110.00 OP
2.	Miscellaneous
a.	<input type="checkbox"/> Suspension of action on the above-identified application is requested under 37 CFR 1.103© for a period of _____ months. (Period of suspension shall not exceed 3 months; Fee under 37 CFR 1.17(l) required)
b.	<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____
3.	<b>Fees</b> The RCE fee under 37 CFR 1.17(e) is required by 37 CFR 1.114 when the RCE is filed.
a.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The Director is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees, or credit any overpayments, to Deposit Account No. 50-0320.
b.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Check in the amount of \$750.00 is enclosed for the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RCE fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(e)</li> <li>ii. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Request for Extension of Time (one-month) check for \$110.00 (37 CFR 1.136 and 1.17)</li> <li>iii. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____</li> </ul>
c.	<input type="checkbox"/> Payment by credit card (Form PTO-2038 enclosed)

**SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT REQUIRED**

Name (Print/Type)	Ronald R. Santucci	Registration No. (Attorney/Agent)	28,988
Signature			
Date	May 7, 2003		

**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING OR TRANSMISSION**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop RCE, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, or facsimile transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on the date shown below.

Name (Print/Type)	Edward Nau	Date	May 7, 2003
Signature		Date	May 7, 2003
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Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 0.2 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND FEES and completed Forms to the following address: Mail Stop RCE, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.